

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:DAGANTZ

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

L:MBFELDMAN

ARA/CCA:CGLEESTEEN

SY:VDIKEOS (SUB)

S/CCT:RFEAREY (INFO)

JUSTICE:JHDAVITT (SUB)

S/S:O L. MATTESON

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O 042330Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130790

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CU, US

SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: BONN 8901

1. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT VOGEL'S SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENT  
PARA 2 REFTEL WHEREBY VOGEL WOULD PICK UP LUNT IN CUBA,  
DELIVER LUNT TO US CITY (WASHINGTON) THEN PROCEED TO LEWIS-  
BURG, PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE PRESENT AT THOMPSON'S RELEASE,  
RETURNING THEN WITH THOMPSON TO GDR (ASSUMING, AS WE DO,  
THAT THOMPSON WILL WISH TO DEPART US ASAP). WE ARE SEEKING  
TO ARRANGE (AND FINANCE) AMERICAN FLAG AIRCRAFT TO  
TRANSPORT LUNT AND VOGEL FROM HAVANA TO WASHINGTON.

2. WE ARE CURIOUS ABOUT REFERENCE PARA 2 REFTEL TO  
THOMPSON'S TALKING TOO MUCH, AND WOULD APPRECIATE MEEHAN  
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ASSESSMENT OR FURTHER ELUCIDATION FROM VOGEL REGARDING WHAT

HE IS WORRIED ABOUT IN THIS REGARD.

3. AS FOR WRITTEN EXCHANGE PARA 4, IT SEEMS TO US THAT SIMPLEST APPROACH WOULD BE FOR MEEHAN AND VOGEL TO EXCHANGE SIMILAR SIGNED STATEMENTS INDICATING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE EXCHANGE WOULD PROCEED. SUGGESTED TEXT US (MEEHAN) LETTER FOLLOWS PARA 4.

4. QUOTE

I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO INDICATE TO YOU OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH BELOW.

YOU WOULD TRAVEL TO HAVANA ON OR BEFORE JUNE 10. YOU AND LAWRENCE LUNT, PRESENTLY A PRISONER IN CUBA, WOULD TRAVEL FROM HAVANA TO WASHINGTON, D.C., ON MORNING JUNE 11. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO ARRANGE A SUITABLE AMERICAN FLAG AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF YOU AND MR. LUNT IN WASHINGTON, YOU WOULD TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY TO LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA. AT LEWISBURG MR. ROBERT GLEN THOMPSON WOULD BE RELEASED ON PAROLE IN YOUR PRESENCE, AGAIN ON JUNE 11. MR. THOMPSON WILL BE PAROLED WITHOUT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS SO THAT HE MAY LEAVE THE UNITED STATES IMMEDIATELY, IF HE SO DESIRES, FOR TRAVEL TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OR DESTINATION OF HIS CHOICE.

(SIGNED) MEEHAN

END QUOTE.

5. MEEHAN, OR IN HIS ABSENCE, ANOTHER AUTHORIZED EMBASSY OFFICER, SHOULD TELL VOGEL THAT ONCE WE HAVE RECEIVED A SIMILAR STATEMENT FROM HIM, OUR AUTHORITIES WILL COMMUNICATE THAT STATEMENT TO THE PAROLE BOARD WHICH WILL THEN AUTHORIZE THOMPSON'S RELEASE ON JUNE 11. (LEWISBURG IS CONFIDENTIAL

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4-HOUR DRIVE FROM WASHINGTON.) MEEHAN SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT TO VOGEL THAT ONCE THOMPSON HAS BEEN PAROLED, USG WILL HAVE NO FURTHER CONTROL OVER HIM. WE ASSUME, AS THOMPSON HAS INDICATED FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST, THAT HE WILL WISH TO TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY TO GDR AND THAT VOGEL WILL MAKE NECESSARY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. US IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES WOULD INTERVIEW THOMPSON BRIEFLY ON DEPARTURE TO ESTABLISH CLEAR RECORD THAT HE IS LEAVING US VOLUNTARILY.

6. DEPT IS, OF COURSE, SOMEWHAT UNEASY ABOUT THOMPSON  
LETTER DISCUSSED PARAS 7 AND 8 REFTEL. WE HAVE DISCOVERED,  
HOWEVER, THAT THOMPSON'S ONLY SON IS 15 YEARS OLD, LIVES IN  
ISLIP, LONG ISLAND. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE INTERESTED IN  
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION BUT ARE DISPOSED TO DISCOUNT THREAT.  
YOU SHOULD INFORM VOGEL THAT LETTER REPRESENTS AN

UNFORTUNATE COMPLICATION. WHILE WE DOUBT BONA FIDES OF  
THE THREAT, WE EXPECT GDR'S COOPERATION IN CLARIFYING THE  
MATTER. IN ANY EVENT, AS YOU ARE AWARE, RECORD CLEARLY  
SHOWS THAT USG DECISION MADE AND CUBAN AGREEMENT IN  
PRINCIPLE OBTAINED WELL PRIOR TO OUR HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE  
OF THOMPSON'S LETTER. JUSTICE DEPT CONCURS. KISSINGER

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